

"National Parks are an investment in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of Americans as individuals..."

Caring for and preserving Acadia National Park is much like maintaining your home. It takes time, effort, and money. You may budget a portion of your annual salary for maintaining your home but you might also need to seek other financial sources to adequately protect your investment.

Although Acadia National Park receives an annual appropriation from Congress, operating costs have not kept pace with budgets. Consequently managers must look to other sources of revenue to fund improvements to visitor services, the maintenance backlog of deteriorating infrastructure and facilities, and the preservation of natural and cultural resources. Since 1996 the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program authorized by Congress has enabled national parks to acquire additional funds to address these needs.

The Recreational Fee Demonstration Program allows parks like Acadia, that collect fees, to retain 80% of this revenue to fund needed improvements. The other 20% of the fees are made available to parks that do not collect fees.

Examples of your fee dollars at work are:

- New outdoor exhibits installed this summer at Hulls Cove Visitor Center and Thompson Island Information Center
- Newly constructed Sand Beach entrance station
- Repairs to carriage road bridges and numerous hiking trails
- Installation of an accessible walkway at Thunder Hole
- Vegetation barriers and signs on Cadillac Mountain to protect fragile alpine plants.

During your visit you will see other projects funded by your fees.

Fee money also supports the Island Explorer bus system. In 2004, the 7-day park pass will cost \$20 and the annual Acadia pass will cost \$40. \$10 from the sale of each pass will go into the new transportation account, directly supporting the Island Explorer.

The Island Explorer fare-free transportation system has been tremendously successful since its inception in 1999. The Island Explorer propane buses have transported thousands of visitors, commuters, and residents across Mount Desert Island and the park, helping to relieve traffic congestion and reduce air pollution. Ridership has increased annually as visitors realize how easy it is to use the bus. "Excellent concept, convenient and eliminates parking problems-good for the environment!" "Our second vacation stop at MDI. Your buses brought us back as much as did MDI. The passenger/bike service is top drawer!"

During the winter, you may purchase your Acadia Annual pass or National Parks pass at the Winter Information Station.

Thank you for purchasing your park pass which helps support improvements in Acadia National Park.

"National Parks are an investment in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of Americans as individuals. They are a gainful investment in something as simple, yet as fundamental as good citizenship-love of country, and appreciation of the natural and historical fabric of America"
Conrad Wirth, NPS Director 1965

Eric Hopkins - Journal Excerpt

It's not just the
ice
that gets me going

It's what's behind
the old
cold
frozen water

It's the forms
this salty fluid
makes
when the temperature
drops
below
freezing

And changes everything
Matter -
liquid
solid
gases.

(re-)awaken me to the fact
We're on a constantly
changing
living
breathing
planet

And this isn't all
a matter of fact
to be taken for granted.

It's time to open eyes
and see
beyond
the ice
into what
makes
this
incredible
world
HAPPEN.

To make
VISIBLE
unseen forces.

Artist/writer Eric Hopkins is a native of North Haven, Maine. His expressive paintings of the edges where sky, land, and water meet is a major focus of his work. Eric was an Artist-in-Residence in Acadia National Park in 2000.

Are You Ready for Winter Weather?

The ocean moderates temperatures and snowfall along the coast, but it is often below freezing here. Ice storms are common in winter and early spring, and rain or snow is frequent every winter month. Snowfall averages 61" annually, but accumulation varies from year to year, depending on the temperatures. Conditions can change rapidly.

Temperatures may range from sub-zero to the mid 40s, but the wind chill factor can make it seem much colder. Days are much shorter in the winter, so sunshine is at a premium! Be prepared for cold, short days, and make sure you plan your excursion accordingly.

Stay warm and safe! Below are the winter sunrise/sunset times for Mount Desert Island.

A Fed Raccoon is a Dead Raccoon

When raccoons are fed or gain access to your food they lose their fear of people and become "beggars." Beggar raccoons bite the hand that feeds them, damage personal property, and disrupt a quiet evening in camp. Beggar raccoons must be trapped and destroyed because Maine Law prevents relocating raccoons that may carry rabies. Rabies has been found on Mount Desert Island.

Feeding raccoons either intentionally or through careless camping behavior is a violation of federal regulations that may result in fines.

- Do not leave food unattended at campsites or picnic areas.
- Store food in odor-proof containers inside your vehicle.
- Dispose of food wastes and cooking grease in dumpsters or animal-proof cans.
- Do not store or eat food in a tent.
- Clean up your cooking and eating site as soon as you have finished.



Wildlife Sightings

Stop by the Winter Information Station to learn which animals are being seen in the park. Call with your sightings: 288-3338, select "0" for the operator.

Collect Acadia's pins!

Take your memories home and help support education and research in Acadia National Park. They also make great gifts for collectors of all ages! There are currently 4 pins in the series. You can ask about these pins and other educational products at the Winter Information Station or browse the Eastern National on-line bookstore at:

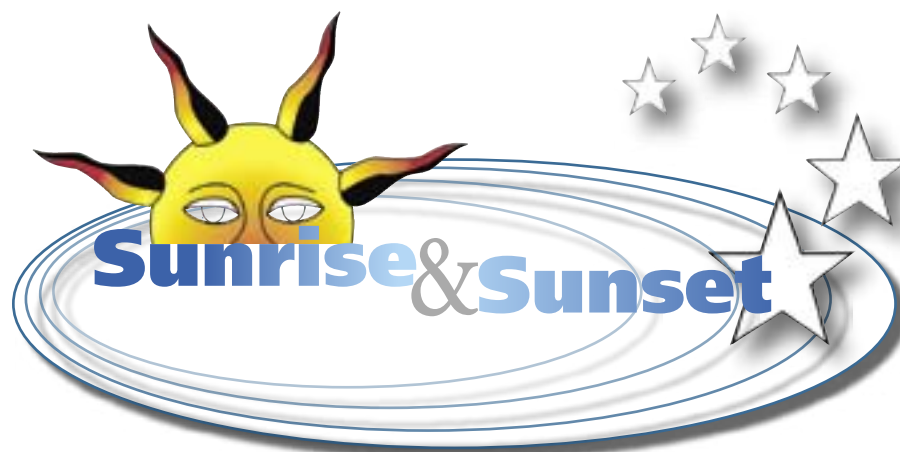
www.eParks.com



Eastern National is a nonprofit agency that provides quality educational products and services to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National's contributions have benefited parks and visitors by supporting research, educational and interpretive projects, and funding publications. Joining Eastern National supports your parks, and gives you 15% off merchandise in any Eastern National store!



Visit www.easternnational.org



Date	November	December
1	6:01 a.m. 4:16 p.m.	6:39 a.m. 3:50 p.m.
10	6:13 a.m. 4:05 p.m.	6:48 a.m. 3:48 p.m.
20	6:25 a.m. 3:56 p.m.	6:55 a.m. 3:51 p.m.
30	6:37 a.m. 3:50 p.m.	6:59 a.m. 3:57 p.m.
	January	February
1	6:59 a.m. 3:59 p.m.	6:42 a.m. 4:36 p.m.
10	6:58 a.m. 4:08 p.m.	6:31 a.m. 4:48 p.m.
20	6:53 a.m. 4:20 p.m.	6:17 a.m. 5:02 p.m.
30	6:44 a.m. 4:33 p.m.	
	March	April
1	6:02 a.m. 5:14 p.m.	5:07 a.m. 5:52 p.m.
10	5:47 a.m. 5:25 p.m.	5:52 a.m. 7:02 p.m.
20	5:29 a.m. 5:37 p.m.	5:35 a.m. 7:14 p.m.
30	5:11 a.m. 5:49 p.m.	5:19 a.m. 7:26 p.m.